

the rains have stopped.
the rains have been terrible for business
everywhere.
I am reading the Herald-Examiner
at a corner table and the sun is on my back.
2 of the girls
(the ones drinking coffee) are in pants;
the other one (drinking coke through a straw)
and facing me
wears a short skirt.
she spreads her legs and the sun
runs under the table and I can see her
panties:
they are a light grey.
I turn a page of the newspaper
see nothing
turn back to the front page:
the weatherman says there'll be
another storm on the way.
I get up and walk past their table.
they are giggling like
highschool girls.
out on the sidewalk
a thin brown dog with a swayback
bent long legs shivering
picks up half a dry bun
and tries to chew it;
the bun hangs out one side of
his mouth
as he tries to shuffle it down
his throat.
it hasn't been a very good
winter.

THE DANDY

the "Hollywood" sign on the mountain
has been falling apart
and after the rains
it has worsened:
the first "o" has slipped a little
and the top has broken off
and the third "o" has fallen off
so now the sign reads:
"H_ullywo d"
and I stopped at the Gower Gulch
Shopping Center
for a new pair of prescription
sun glasses

and as I parked
in the area in front of me
I saw this man pushing a
shopping cart filled with
bottles, pieces of cloth,
magazines, wires, bits of
scatological debris,
and each hair
on this man's head was
perfectly combed and a
majestic grey.
he had a square chin
a bit of scarf around his throat
but it was hardly a frowzy piece
of linen
and he strolled
poised
puffing upon a pipe
he looked natty and almost
intellectual
he looked just like
Cary Grant looks now
in this 1978
he looked a hell of a lot
better than I
did
or maybe better than
you
this shopping cart bum
there at Gower Gulch
on Sunset boulevard
just east of
Mark C. Bloome
tires
at 11:45 a.m.
in
Hullywo d.

SILK PINK GOWN, SILK BLUE
GOWN, SILK PURPLE GOWN

I'd leave this house about 10:30 in the
morning to go back to my place in the
city.
the houses up there were expensive
and all the automobiles were
expensive
and I'd walk to my car
hoping that it would start
and when it did I'd have to warm it